

## **Baird Journal #7 – Work, Water and Wisdom**

**The Perfect Illustration:** Since coming back to Bukavu, we are out visiting our Churches most Sundays. In relationship to the needs God has shown me among our Christians, my lessons are on Faith, Unity, and Reconciliation, and the foundational scripture is from Matt. 18:15-20. Here Jesus speaks of how to win a brother back after he has fallen into sin. When the Church at Ibanda Poste invited me to share with them, I was prepared, but not for what God had planned. Mukeba, the preacher, stood in front of the congregation and called a man to the front. This man had been a teacher in the CECA educational program. After being introduced he began to tell his story; over a period of about five years he had fallen into sin. In the process of confessing his sin before the Church, he named five people who had never given up on him. Five people who over the years had kept bringing him to account for his sin. Through his confession and repentance had come the perfect illustration of Faith, Unity and Reconciliation. After kneeling before the Church where the elders prayed over him, the man's wife and two of his daughters rushed to the front and with tears hugged and kissed this man who had returned to them, their husband and father. Right then I had perhaps the most unified groups of listeners the Holy Spirit had ever given me and with just the right sermon to teach the lesson God wanted them to receive. Praise God for Christians everywhere who lovingly do the will of Christ for the sake of their brothers and sisters. **Please pray for the Congo Church that their faith would establish the unity among believers that brings about the reconciliation of those who have fallen.**

**Some Pretty Cool Results:** When we shared the need concerning Basimagi and Marina's roof for their house, the results were immediate. Not only did we receive funds for the whole roof, but also enough for a cement floor. Everyone who gave and the amount of their generosity was declared to Basimagi and Marina by writing it out so they would have in their hands, not just money, but names of Christians who thought their life worth the effort. You can be assured of their prayers for all of you! Basimagi is the one who is going blind from what we think might be Macular Degeneration.



**Pray for Basimagi and Marina, that their house would be finished quickly and without problems. (mango trees in background – in our backyard)**

**Water, Water and Teaching English:** Dawn had a break from teaching because of previously scheduled visiting professors at the University. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, she started back teaching the Beginner I class. She was scheduled to teach Beginner II on the 27<sup>th</sup>, but we got a call from Safari, the driver from the University, to tell her he could not pick her because the road was blocked by young people protesting the shortage of water! The police had shut down the demonstration by Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> so she was able to be picked up for teaching Beginner III. Mike Nichols and his daughter Sammy were visiting from the States and were well used as teaching assistants for the Beginner III students who loved having more American English Speaking teachers in class. **To all of you Prayers: Thanks very much; your prayers are beginning to be answered as there has been an increase in the length of time various sections of town get water. And, it has unseasonably rained three times in the last 5 or 6 days!!**

**Tracy's Heart:** This past week a mother arrived at Tracy's heart with her two daughters, one 18 and one 12 years old. Their story is that they all were raped and now the older girl has HIV and the younger one is incontinent due to internal damages. It is very terrible to hear, but before they are admitted into the Tracy's Heart program their story has to be verified. They have to have medical checkups and Kasavubu must do whatever he can to check their stories. Tracy's Heart has to deal with lies and deceptions in their program just the same as we all do.

**Please pray for their wisdom and understanding for Brenda, Kasavubu and Elizabeth as they deal with Satan's attempt to destroy the good they do. And also pray for Elizabeth as she prepares to teach her fourth lesson on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.** The lesson is about Enoch's relationship with God and she is very excited, as always, to be part of helping the children of Rape Survivors. We are no longer calling them "victims," instead; they are "rape survivors."



, Two Rape Survivors and Their Children

For the Lion of Judah

*Bob, Dawn and Elizabeth*